

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 10 are amended, and claims 11 and 12 are added. Claims 1 and 10 are amended to recite features supported in the specification at paragraph [0017]. No new matter is added by any of these amendments.

Reconsideration based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Claims 1-12 Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 7 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent 6,075,510 to Blouin *et al.* (hereinafter “Blouin”) in view of U.S. Patent 5,867,140 to Rader (hereinafter “Rader”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A *prima facie* case of obviousness for a §103 rejection requires satisfaction of three basic criteria: there must be some suggestion or motivation either in the references or knowledge generally available to modify the references or combine reference teachings, a reasonable expectation of success, and the references must teach or suggest all the claim limitations (MPEP §706.02(j)). Applicant asserts that the Office Action fails to satisfy these requirements with Blouin and Rader.

Blouin and Rader do not teach or suggest a method for driving a plurality of display elements arranged in a matrix and constituting a region to make each display element display in the region, a gray level that the display element should display through at least one frame period of a plurality of frame periods, by using a plurality of scanning lines for supplying a scanning signal that selects the display element and a plurality of data lines for supplying a data signal that specifies the gray level, the method including a first supplying step of supplying the scanning signal to certain scanning lines of the plurality of scanning lines, the certain scanning lines corresponding to display elements included in a certain part of the region for displaying the gray level, the first step including supplying a data signal that specifies the gray level to the plurality of data lines corresponding to the display elements

included in the certain part of the region, and a second supplying step of supplying the scanning signal to both the certain scanning lines and scanning lines other than the certain scanning lines of the plurality of scanning lines, the other scanning lines corresponding to display elements included in an other part of the region for not displaying the gray level other than the certain part of the region, the second step including supplying a data signal that specifies the gray level to the plurality of data lines corresponding to the display elements including in the certain part of the region, and supplying a non-display signal that specifies a non-display voltage level to the plurality of data lines corresponding to the display elements included in the other part of the region, as recited in claim 1.

Blouin and Rader also fail to teach or suggest an apparatus to display a gray level in which, to display a gray level to be displayed through at least one frame period of a plurality of frame periods specified by image data, a plurality of scanning lines that supply scanning signals to a region comprising a plurality of display elements arranged in a matrix and a plurality of data lines that supply data signals to the region are used to drive the plurality of display elements, thereby displaying the gray level, the scanning signals selecting the plurality of display elements, and the data signals specifying gray levels to be displayed by the plurality of display elements, the electronic apparatus including an input circuit that inputs information to specify the image data, a production circuit that produces the image data according to the information inputted from the input circuit, and a display circuit that displays the image data produced by the production circuit, the display circuit supplying the scanning signals to certain scanning lines of the plurality of scanning lines and a data line signal, the certain scanning lines corresponding to display elements included in a certain part of the region for displaying the gray level, the data signal specifying the gray level to the plurality of data lines corresponding to the display elements included in the certain part of the region, and the scanning signals to both of the certain scanning lines and the other scanning lines of the plurality of scanning lines other than the certain scanning lines, the other scanning

lines corresponding to display elements included in an other part of the region other than the certain part of the region, to make the gray level undisplayed and the data signal that specifies the gray level to the plurality of data lines corresponding to the display elements included in the certain part of the region and including supplying a non-display signal that specifies a non-display voltage level to the plurality of data lines corresponding to the display elements included in the other part of the region, as recited in claim 10.

Instead, Blouin discloses a method for refreshing an LCD display with reduced power. In particular, Blouin teaches a display controller 22 skipping a line by sending a double latch signal as closely spaced pulses (col. 4, lines 13-48 and Figs. 3-4 of Blouin). Applicant respectfully asserts that Blouin prevents display of data by latching display data for a period that is insufficient to enable display, whereas Applicant's claimed features provides an "undriven" or non-display voltage for controlling the display.

Further, Rader discloses a display system 300 having a control circuit 301 coupled to a liquid crystal display panel 200. In particular, Rader teaches the display panel 200 having a full screen area 303 within which is a partial display field 305 for a second operation mode (col. 2, lines 21-30 and Fig. 3 of Rader).

Further, there is no motivation to combine features related to the double latch pulses of Blouin with the partial display field of Rader, nor has the Office Action established sufficient motivation for a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Even assuming that motivation to combine the applied references is established, the combination fails to teach or suggest Applicant's claimed features. These reasons also apply by extension to claims 11 and 12 based on their dependence from claims 1 and 10, respectively.

The Office Action further rejects claims 4-6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Blouin and Rader and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,236,380 to Wani *et al.* (hereinafter "Wani"); and claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Blouin, Wani and Rader and further in

view of U.S. Patent 5,805,121 to Burgan *et al.* (hereinafter “Burgan”). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Wani does not compensate for the deficiencies of Blouin and Rader outlined above for claim 1. Nor does Wani teach, disclose or suggest the additional features recited in claims 4-6 and 8. Instead, Wani discloses a method for displaying graduation for a plasma display panel. In particular, Wani teaches alternating selection for scanning electrodes (col. 3, lines 10-39 and Fig. 1 of Wani).

Further, there is no motivation to combine features related to the graduation in the plasma display of Wani with the latched pulses for the liquid crystal display of Blouin and the partial display field for the liquid crystal display of Rader, nor has the Office Action established sufficient motivation for a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Specifically, the technical characteristics for a liquid crystal display and for a plasma display are sufficiently distinct to preclude one of ordinary skill in the art to be motivated to combine any such respective teachings. Even assuming that motivation to combine the applied references is established, the combination fails to teach or suggest Applicant’s claimed features.

Burgan does not compensate for the deficiencies of Blouin and Rader outlined above for claim 1. Nor does Burgan teach, disclose or suggest the additional features recited in claim 9. Instead, Burgan discloses a liquid crystal display by turning off selected columns and rows. In particular, Burgan teaches shutting off drivers by back-plane and front-plane electrodes (col. 2, lines 30-51 and Fig. 2 of Burgan).

Further, there is no motivation to combine features related to the driver electrodes of Burgan with the latched pulses of Blouin and the partial display field of Rader, nor has the Office Action established sufficient motivation for a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Even assuming that motivation to combine the applied references is established, the combination fails to teach or suggest Applicant’s claimed features.

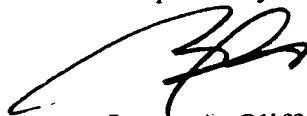
For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully asserts that the independent claims are now patentable over the applied references. The dependent claims are likewise patentable over the applied references for at least the reasons discussed, as well as for the additional features they recite. Consequently, all the claims are in condition for allowance. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Gerhard W. Thielman
Registration No. 43,186

JAO:GWT/gwt

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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